



# The Eruv in St. Louis

## Rabbi Jaffe

The scholar who permitted the eruv was very proud of his discovery, and he asked some of his people to give something to a policeman. They gave the policeman something to satisfy him, and he sold him the authority for the entire city. And he added in a joking manner that he was also selling them Chicago. (This is true, for he had just as much right to sell Chicago as he did to sell St. Louis). . . . In all the cities in America, they are just waiting for

In addition, no official has the authority to remove someone from his home, even if it is in the public's good, without paying the inhabitant of the home. This is not what the permitting rabbi wrote, as he does not know the truth. Yet, this is known to every child in America. Furthermore, all the rest of his arguments are useless words, for even the officer who is called a detective can only enter homes against the will of the owner in a case of suspected robbery but not for other reasons. In addition, there is a problem because the policemen are replaced every year.<sup>92</sup>

# Rabbi Rosenfeld: Introduction

I arrived in this nation, and I witnessed even many of the religious Jews carrying on the Sabbath. A religious Jew is not embarrassed to carry his *tallit* [prayer shawl] in public and to wear it in the synagogue. I said to myself, what should I do for the sake of my people to remove this terrible sin? If I raise my voice like the shofar to decry the severity of the prohibition, I know that my words will not make an impact because people have already become accustomed to carrying on the Sabbath. In addition, the preachers in this country have already set the standard of raising their voices, stamping their feet, clapping their hands, and shaking every limb in their bodies to criticize the actions of the people. Yet they have been unsuccessful, and their words have been ignored. If I get upset and embarrass the sinner, I will have nothing to my credit other than my anger. . . . I therefore have decided to return to the words of the law and to look for a way in which the Jewish tradition would allow for carrying on the Sabbath. . . . When I was appointed rabbi in St. Louis, I continued my search, and I found a correct and acceptable way to permit carrying on the Sabbath.<sup>32</sup>

# Rabbi Jaffe: Introduction

Recently a rabbi has come to St. Louis and has permitted carrying on the Sabbath with made-up arguments that have no basis at all. Worse than that, he has built an entire structure on

these arguments, one that permits carrying on the Sabbath in all American cities. Furthermore, violators are rampant in this generation, and those in America hang on to his coattails and argue that “it is preferable to be permissive.” And this matter can easily become a plague in the cities of America, for what will prevent other rabbis from permitting that which is prohibited merely to gain the favor of the masses? Furthermore, some have claimed that this rabbi will allow them to keep their stores open on the Sabbath through the sale of the store to one of their non-Jewish employees. Indeed, some people who are concerned about the money that they are losing on the Sabbath are asking me to permit their stores to remain open just as this rabbi has done. The Sabbath is thereby violated even by those who consider themselves religious, and the essence of the Sabbath will be forgotten.<sup>33</sup>

